

# COVID-19

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

## **SNOHOMISH COUNTY ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE BEGINS WORK**

A summary of the first Snohomish County Economic and Workforce Recovery Task Force meeting is at right.

## **STAY HOME, STAY HEALTHY ORDER, DUELING PRESS CONFERENCES.**

Link to Governor Jay Inslee's afternoon press conference today on TVW is at right.

Sheriff Adam Fortney held a press conference this afternoon to discuss his statements made on his Facebook page last night.

## **SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING**

### **Snohomish County Economic Recovery Task Force Begins Work**

Earlier this week, Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers and County Council Chair Nate Nehring held the first Snohomish County Economic and Workforce Recovery Task Force, laying the groundwork for economic recovery. The Task Force's inaugural meeting set in motion a collaborative approach to rebuilding both the county's economy and its workforce. The 29-member Task Force is co-chaired by Ray Stephanson, former Mayor of Everett, and Amy Drewel of Mosaic Insurance, LLC, and is charged with providing short and long-term plans for the county to assist the private sector and impacted employees as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Executive Somers emphasized the important work the Task Force will be embarking on to plan for and support economic recovery in the county.

"The suddenness of our economic downturn is something none of us has ever experienced. We know that there are significant challenges to restarting our economy," said Somers. "By working together we can develop a data-driven strategy to respond to the needs of our employers and employees. We also must take advantage of any new opportunities. This truly is a countywide approach, a whole-of-government and a whole-of-county effort. Our resiliency and partnerships will set us on the path toward recovery."

To see the full release, go [here](#).

### **Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order Sparks Dueling Press Conferences**

Snohomish County's elected sheriff and Gov. Jay Inslee both hosted press conferences Wednesday, debating the future of the state's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order.

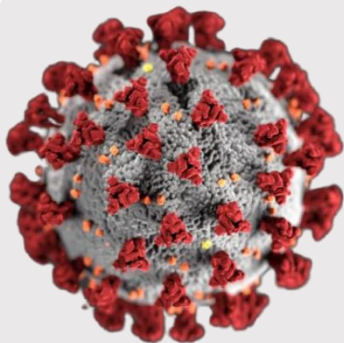
Sheriff Adam Fortney on Tuesday evening used his personal Facebook page to [post](#) a widely-shared broadside on the orders, which he maintained infringe on constitutional rights.

The governor and others responded Wednesday, questioning Fortney's analysis.

Tune into [TVW](#) to watch the Governor's press conference.

Various elected leaders in Snohomish County also released statements. For more information please read or tune into their recordings:

- Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers, [Facebook Post](#)
- Snohomish County Council Member, Megan Dunn, [Facebook Post](#)
- Snohomish County Council Member, Sam Low, [Facebook Post](#)
- [Facebook Recording](#) of Fortney's press conference



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## **CITY OF EDMONDS MAKES HAND SANITIZER**

When faced with a hand sanitizer shortage, Edmonds City staff created their own. The story at right.

## **ROTARACT CLUB OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY BRINGS STORYTIME TO FACEBOOK**

Link to the story in the North County Outlook about the nightly story time hosted by the Rotaract Club of Snohomish County is at right.

## **EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BEGIN PROVIDING WEEKEND MEALS STARTING THIS FRIDAY, APRIL 24**

Details of the new weekend meal program by the Edmonds School District are at right.

## **EVERETT'S FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE MUSIC FESTIVAL AND NIGHT MARKET POSTPONED**

The Fisherman's Village Music Festival and Night Market has been postponed. Information on a new date will be released in the coming weeks.

## **City of Edmonds Makes Hand Sanitizer**

When faced with a hand sanitizer shortage, Edmonds City staff took matters into their own hands and created their own ... at a fraction of the cost.

It all started when Thom Sullivan and Craig Cottrell, working out of the Edmonds City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) went looking at available hand sanitizer options for City facilities and found only over-priced products, if any at all. Rather than give up, the team got creative. They googled how to make hand sanitizer, found the formula on the World Health Organization's website, and realized we could do it in partnership with our Wastewater Treatment Plant laboratory.

The laboratory, managed by Jeanne McKenzie, is always busy providing operational testing at the plant and, even more importantly, testing the City's discharge into Puget Sound to ensure it's clean and meets all regulatory requirements. The laboratory is very well equipped and undergoes frequent reviews to maintain its certification. They have all the necessary facilities and expertise to produce high quality hand sanitizer.

Craig, Thom and Jeanne contacted suppliers and bought bulk isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide and food grade glycerin to make the first batch. It produced approximately 75 eight-ounce bottles. They purchased 1,000 empty bottles to put product in and printed the necessary labels. The first batch was distributed to our First Responders and selected other City workers. They plan to keep making it until the public health crisis is over and hope to distribute the product to all City staff soon.

## **Rotaract Club of Snohomish County Brings Storytime Program to Facebook**

A [story in the North County Outlook](#) highlighted efforts by The Rotaract Club of Snohomish County to help families by providing night-time story readings for children on Facebook Live during the month of April. Members are taking turns reading various children stories for families beginning every weeknight at 7 p.m.

They are using the Facebook Live platform at their page at [facebook.com/RotaractSnohomishCounty](https://facebook.com/RotaractSnohomishCounty). The program began on April 8.

## **Edmonds School District to Begin Providing Weekend Meals Starting this Friday, April 24**

The Edmonds School District (ESD) Food and Nutritional Services Department announced that starting this Friday, April 24, it will begin handing out breakfast and lunch meals to feed students not only on Friday, but on Saturdays and Sundays as well.

The program is free to all kids age 1-18 years of age. Adults can purchase a meal for \$5 or are encouraged to contact the family support team if there is a barrier to access meals at 425-431-1454 or [familysupport@edmonds.wednet.edu](mailto:familysupport@edmonds.wednet.edu).

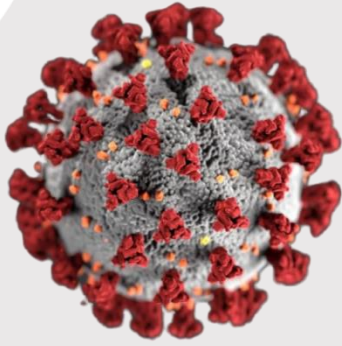
Families not able to reach meal pickup sites can fill out a [survey](#) by 5:00 pm to request assistance with delivery the next day.

For a list of distribution locations please visit ESD's [webpage](#).

## **Everett's Fisherman's Village Music Festival and Night Market Postponed**

A message from the organizers of the [Fisherman's Village Music Festival and Night Market](#):

"Today our team has to announce the postponement of the 2020 Fisherman's Village Music Festival and Night Market in coordination with the



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## MARYSVILLE'S STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL CANCELED FOR 2020

Statement on the cancellation from the organizers of the Marysville Strawberry Festival is at right.

## ARLINGTON AMERICAN LEGION POST 76 CANCELS MEMORIAL DAY DISPLAY OF FLAGS

The traditional display of flags at Arlington Municipal Cemetery has been canceled by the Arlington American Legion Post 76. More details at right.

## GOV. INSLEE ANNOUNCES WASHINGTON'S RECOVERY PLAN

A summary of Washington's Recovery Plan and links to the plan, the news release and TVW coverage at right.

State of Washington and City of Everett orders in response to COVID-19. While this news seems like just another clothespin on the laundry line of cancellations and postponements, it's one we take very seriously and one we share with a heavy heart. It's still our goal to have a three-day festival this year and in the spirit of making sure that happens, we've decided to hold out a few weeks to learn as much as we can to help inform our decision on choosing new dates."

## Marysville's Strawberry Festival Canceled for 2020

A message from the organizers of the [Marysville Strawberry Festival](#):

"In light of the current state of the virus and its impact on our community, the Marysville Strawberry Festival Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to cancel all scheduled festival events this year. The health and safety of our community members, and volunteers is our top priority. Thank you to our entire Marysville community, city officials, all our sponsors and volunteers for your continued ongoing support of our community festival, and please be careful and safe through these challenging times.

## Arlington American Legion Post 76 Cancels Memorial Day Display of Flags at Arlington Municipal Cemetery

Arlington American Legion Post 76 Commander David Delancy's announcement:

"Due to circumstances and after counsel with other Legion officers, there will be NO flags displayed on Memorial Day. This was a very difficult decision to make. This is a 2-part decision... Part 1.... COVID, Part 2.... The Legion and the Community, even if the Governor says it's okay to gather, won't have time to prepare.

I know this breaks a tradition that has stood for many years. This was not my choice alone. I consulted with officers of the Post, Auxiliary and the S.A.L. If you know me well, you know I take Memorial Day very seriously. I normally take a week of vacation during this time to make the preparation for this sacred holiday. This saddens my heart as I know too well this will break many of yours too.

Please Stay Safe. Stay Home. Stay Healthy. We are in this together. "

## Gov. Inslee Announces Washington's Recovery Plan

Gov. Jay Inslee [spoke directly to Washingtonians](#) Tuesday evening to lay out his vision for the eventual safe return to public life amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

Inslee said it is unlikely many restrictions under the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order will be modified before May 4. Rather, this plan is intended to be a framework for the loosening of restrictions contingent on a steady decrease of the spread of COVID-19.

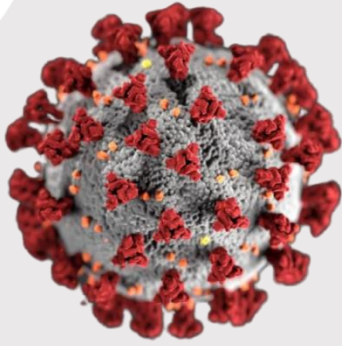
"It will look more like a turn of the dial than a flip of the switch," Inslee said in the address. "We're going to take steps and then monitor to see whether they work or if we must continue to adapt."

Depending on health projections for the spread of the virus, some distancing restrictions may be in place for weeks or months to come.

"In the coming days, we will receive additional health modeling projecting the course of this virus," Inslee said. "We hope it will give us cause to begin lifting certain restrictions."

The return to public life will occur in measured steps. It will be guided by science and informed by our public health needs, our ability to mitigate impacts, and the response of Washington communities.

The [governor's plan](#) has three overriding goals:



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## BUSINESS RESPONSE CENTER UPDATE

The state Economic Resiliency Team Business Response Center has answered over 1,200 general business inquiries around financial help or other business assistance. Links to the FAQ and how a business can submit a question to the Business Response Center is at right.

## ECONOMIC RESILIENCY TEAM POSTS NEW WEBINAR

The Economic Resiliency Team, part of the state Joint Information Center, holds a weekly webinar with key stakeholders in collaboration with the Association of Washington Business. Link to the second webinar of the series is at right.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE UPDATE

The Employment Security Department (ESD) provided an update on current efforts to improve performance of the ESD website and access to unemployment. Details, tips, and links at right.

1. Protect the health and safety of Washingtonians
2. Facilitate a safe start and transition to economic recovery
3. Support all people and communities

Learn more about the plan on the [governor's Medium page](#) in the policy brief: "[Washington's Recovery Plan](#)."

Please read the Governor's [news release](#) and tune into [TVW](#) to watch the recording.

## Business Response Center Update

The state Economic Resiliency Team (ERT) Business Response Center has answered over 1,200 general business inquiries around financial help or other business assistance since coming online April 8.

This team of people from the Department of Commerce, the Joint Information Center and volunteers from throughout state government, are reviewing incoming questions and responding as quickly as possible.

The team is currently able to answer questions as quickly as they are received. Washington State has compiled a list of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) for businesses](#).

If you're a business owner or operator with a question that hasn't been answered on the FAQs, [ask your question here](#).

Stay up to date on what the Economic Resiliency Team is doing [by signing up for the weekly Business and Workers Update](#).

## Economic Resiliency Team Posts New Webinar

The Economic Resiliency Team, part of the state Joint Information Center, holds a weekly webinar with key stakeholders in collaboration with the Association of Washington Business.

The [second webinar in a series is now online](#), providing news and information to help navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. This week, Department of Commerce Director Lisa Brown and Employment Security Department Commissioner Suzi LeVine discuss the state's efforts to help businesses and workers.

The first episode is [also archived online](#).

## Unemployment Insurance Update

The Employment Security Department (ESD) launched a redesigned online system Sunday to accommodate the expansion of unemployment benefits enabled by the Federal CARES Act.

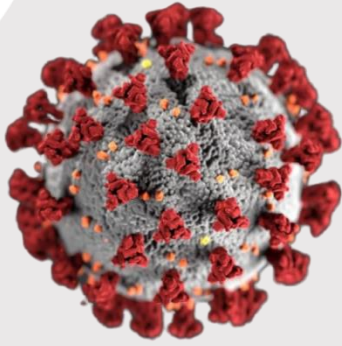
ESD's site is seeing unprecedented demand for services – up to 500,000 users per hour. Due to the high volume, the online system is experiencing [performance issues](#). Information may load slowly and call wait times are long. The informational areas of the website are not impacted and can address questions people may have.

ESD expects to have about 1,000 people providing some form of customer service by the end of this week. That includes current and new ESD staff, staff from across state government, contract staff and even ESD retirees who are rising to the call of public service yet again.

In addition, the department's teams are resolving online technical issues and the agency is seeing improvement. The rate of people able to file for benefits is increasing as volumes level out and the agency's adjustments take effect. Tens of thousands of people have already filed successfully, and thousands continue to do so every hour.

"Tens of thousands of people have been able to apply for expanded benefits over the past few days. This will make a tremendous difference for





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## UPDATE ON US SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Congress is working to pass new funding measures for the Paycheck Protection Program. More details at right.

these families. Yet, we know many people have been unable to access the system and submit their applications. We know how frustrating this is and are adapting in real-time to this massive influx of new claimants as best we can," ESD Commissioner Suzi LeVine said. "We want to reassure everyone that those who are eligible will get their money and that they will be paid retroactive to their date of eligibility. This is a source of funding that won't run out."

As people continue to apply for benefits or file weekly claims, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- The more people prepare before they apply, the smoother their process will be to get their benefits.
- You can apply for benefits at any time. This is not a first-come-first-served program. There is no risk of funds running out.
- Payments are retroactive to a worker's eligibility date. Once you have successfully applied and backdated your start date, your first payment will be for all weeks for which you are eligible.
- Weekly claims can be filed seven days a week. They can also be filed over the automated phone system: 800-318-6022
- E-services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The busiest times tend to be in the morning. ESD recommends trying during off-hours.
- If you are having difficulty filing your application, [please visit ESD's help page](#).
- The Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) offers daily webinars that cover the application process for unemployment benefits and common mistakes that delay payments. View the presentation slides [here](#). See the schedule and sign up [here](#).
- ESD also has [created a tool kit for businesses and workers](#) with the latest information and resources related to filing for unemployment benefits.

## Update on U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program

While the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is currently unable to accept new applications for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or the Economic Injury Disaster Loan based on available appropriations funding, Congress is working to pass new funding measures. On April 21, the Senate approved a deal to provide \$480 billion in new coronavirus relief with \$310 billion going toward the SBA's PPP. The House is expected to vote as soon as April 23 on the funding bill.

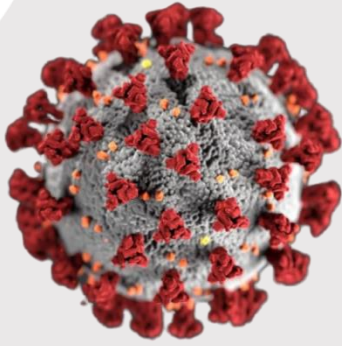
Check the [SBA website](#) for updates.

The state Department of Commerce continues to support other SBA loan programs including [SBA 7\(a\), 504 and microloans](#), on which the SBA is offering [Debt Relief](#); or, [SBA Express Bridge Loans](#).

## HCA Takes Actions to Ensure Access to Care for Apple Health Clients

The Health Care Authority is taking several steps to help ensure Apple Health (Medicaid) clients have access to high-quality physical and behavioral health services during the [COVID-19 pandemic and beyond](#). The actions HCA is taking include:

- Eliminating some verification requirements so people already enrolled in Apple Health can stay on their coverage.



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## HCA TAKES ACTIONS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO CARE FOR APPLE HEALTH CLIENTS

The Health Care Authority is taking several steps to help ensure Apple Health (Medicaid) clients have access to high-quality physical and behavioral health services during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Details and link at right.

## WATCH OUT FOR MEDICARE CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

Medicare enrollees need to stay vigilant against possible scams. More information in the link at right.

## CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Please note: The statistics are also available on the [Snohomish Health District website](#).

## ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID-19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19 Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Washington State COVID-19 Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211** for help. For information to be texted to you, text **Coronavirus** to **211-211**.

- Quickly shifting to telehealth and bolstering primary care to adjust to the new COVID-19 realities of the need for greater self-care, prevention and use of technology.
- Requiring the managed care plans to assist behavioral health providers who are in immediate danger of closing due to financial distress. This ensures provider viability now and into the future, especially as experts predict a considerable growth of people seeking behavioral health care later this year. HCA is working with the federal government to explore options for other providers.
- Issuing [a request for proposals \(RFP\)](#) to allow our state's current managed care plans to expand to areas of the state in which they are not currently active if they have demonstrated successful performance in other regions.
- Amending state rules on an emergency basis to:
  - Provide the basis for the RFP and potential future action by clarifying when HCA can adjust the number of its managed care plans, either overall or region-by-region, chiefly based on performance.
  - Distribute new Apple Health managed care clients more evenly among the five plans in response to increased unemployment and need for health coverage.
- Focusing on a number of other short-term and long-term strategies to ensure MCOs perform well.

## Watch Out for Medicare Coronavirus Scams

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, Medicare enrollees need to stay vigilant against possible scams, including perpetrators emailing or calling seniors and offering coronavirus vaccines. Find out more from the [Office of the Insurance Commissioner](#).

## Confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of April 22, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 1:42 p.m.
Confirmed	2,209
Probable	177
Deceased	98

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 1:42 p.m.
Arlington	90
Bothell*	156
Brier	17
Darrington	<5
Edmonds	248
Everett	664
Gold Bar	<5
Granite Falls	21
Index	0
Lake Stevens	97
Lynnwood	449
Marysville	173
Mill Creek	38
Monroe	58
Mountlake Terrace	79
Mukilteo	51
Snohomish	118
Stanwood	80
Sultan	5
Tulalip	8
Unknown/Other	11
Woodinville*	12

Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect medical privacy. Not all cases are within city limits and totals may include nearby unincorporated Snohomish County. Unknown includes cases still under investigation.

\*Counts are for portions in Snohomish County only.